

21st March 1960] [Sri R. Venkataraman]

Government were closely watching the situation arising out of the increase in the prices of yarn and adequate steps were taken by them to arrest further increase and to bring down the prices to normal level. I convened an informal conference of representatives of all mill owners, yarn dealers, handloom weavers and others at Coimbatore on 18th January 1960 to consider this question and, at this conference, I emphasised that if the speculation in yarn prices was not checked, the Government will be constrained to request the Government of India to impose price and distribution control. I also exhorted the mills to see that while fixing the prices for various counts of yarn that would be produced by a particular mill, yarn required for the handlooms, especially coarse counts 30s and 40s were made available at lower prices by suitably adjusting their pricing policy for other counts of yarn produced by these mills. I am happy to say that all the manufacturers and dealers who attended this conference promised wholehearted co-operation in arresting the rising trend of prices. As I said before, the prices of various counts of yarn have since come down and I hope this trend will be maintained. As a measure of abundant precaution, however, we have requested the Government of India to keep a close watch over the price trends and impose regulatory measures, should the situation warrant such control.

I must assure the House that though the handloom industry had difficulty in procuring yarn during the period of high prices, the prices of handloom fabrics held firm and in the context of rising prices of mill-made cloth, handloom cloth had a good market. The Government took advantage of this factor and announced the grant of special additional rebate for handloom cloth at 4 nP. per rupee during the Handloom Week from the State Government's funds. This step was instrumental in pushing up the sales of handloom fabrics.

I may assure the House that if the price shows any tendency to go higher, the Government will intervene at the proper stage.

IV.—PRIVILEGE MOTION

MR. SPEAKER : I have before me three matters of privilege but since I came only to-day, I have not had time to look into them and therefore, I shall take them tomorrow. I hope the House has no objection.

V.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* GRIEVANCES AND STRIKE OF VELLORE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM EMPLOYEES.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri S. M. Annamalai, has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the failure of the Government to consider the grievances and avoid the strike of Vellore Electricity System employees which has been going on from 21st March 1960.

I do not know how much responsibility the Government have in this matter. Before I allow any discussion I would like to hear what the Government have to say.

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, strike is a matter of common occurrence. Unless it seriously disturbs the life of the Government, it should not arise by way of an adjournment motion. Secondly, I do not have any information about the so-called strike. The Government have not got any information from their department, and even my casual enquiries show that they have no information regarding this matter. My suggestion would be, that the hon. Member may put a short notice question on a matter like this, and the Government will collect the information and place it before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Have the Government any responsibility in this matter?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the responsibility of the Government is to bring about reconciliation. It is only in that sense there is a certain amount of responsibility in matters of this kind. But I may say that because there is a strike, it would not give rise to an adjournment motion and it would give rise only to a short notice question.

MR. SPEAKER : Why should not the hon. Member put a short notice question?

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : கனம் சட்ட மன்றத் தலைவர் அவர்களே, கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லும்போது இது ஒரு முக்கியமான பிரச்சனை அல்ல என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் இது ஒரு முக்கியமான பிரச்சனையானது. இன்று காலை 6 மணிக்கு அங்கு மின்சார டயூவை எடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். அதனால் பயிர்களுக்குத் தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கா.மல்.....

MR. SPEAKER : கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் என்ன சொன்னார்கள் ? இதைப் பற்றிய தகவல் அவரிடம் இல்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆகவே இம்மாதிரி அட்ஜர்ன்மெண்டு மோஷன் கொண்டு வராமல் இதற்கு ஒரு ஷார்ட் நோட்டீஸ் கேள்வி போட்டால் பதில் அளிக்கப்படும். இதிலே கனம் அங்கத்தினருக்கு ஆட்சேபணை ஒன்றும் இருக்காது என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : 15 நாட்களுக்கு முன்பே ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்தாவிட்டார்கள். இதைப்பற்றிய விஷயம் சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்க வேண்டும். அவர்களும் சர்க்காருக்கு டெலிகிராம் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதன் மீது சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டது என்று தெரியவில்லை. இதைப்பற்றி நானும் ஒரு ஷார்ட் நோட்டீஸ் கேள்வி கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : அது வரும்.

I am afraid I cannot allow this adjournment motion because of the hon. Member's statement that the workers gave notice of the strike fifteen days ago. Anticipation of a strike cannot form the subject-matter of an adjournment motion.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : The hon. Member says that the strike is on.

MR. SPEAKER : But the Government are not aware of the strike. The hon. Member may either postpone the matter for two or three days or put a short notice question. If he is not willing

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to put a short notice question, in view of the statement made by the Hon. Minister, I would have no hesitation in ruling it out of order.

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : Sir, short notice question has already been given.

MR. SPEAKER : I rule this adjournment motion out of order.

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1960
(L.A. BILL NO. 3 OF 1960).

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I move—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1960 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1960) be taken into consideration.”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1960 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1960) be taken into consideration.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3 and the Schedule were put and carried.

Clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I move—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1960 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1960), be passed.”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1960 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1960), be passed.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

VII.—SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we are going to have four-hour debate on Demand No. II—Excise, Demand No. XIII—Administration of Justice, Demand No. XIV—Jails and Demand No. XV—Police. What is the wish of the House? When shall we get up for lunch and when shall we meet again?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I suggest we adjourn at 1 p.m. for lunch and meet again at 2-30 p.m. and continue till 5 p.m. That will be four hours.